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Industrial Safety Bulletin Oct. 1931

Maine Department of Labor and Industry

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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BULLETIN

OCT. 1931

Accident prevention work pays three-fold returns. There is a return to the employer in lower costs, a return to the employee in a physical and monetary saving, and a return to the community through a lessening of care for the maimed and disabled. Any one of these alone justifies the furtherance of the work, but taken in the aggregate they constitute one of the most important planks in the platform of good business.

E. G. GRACE, President,
Bethlehem Steel Corp.

Issued by
THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY
Augusta, Maine

Plant Routing:

Superintendent
Master Mechanic
Steam Supt.
Electrical Supt.
Maintenance Supt.
Safety Director
Plant Nurse
Chairman, Safety Com.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.
Mr.

Please read thoroughly
and pass along promptly
according to this
routing. One idea thus
gained may save a life.

S-A-F-E-T-Y
spells
GOOD BUSINESS

We suggest that this cover
be folded back on heavy line
and clipped. Check names of
those you wish to read the
material in this Bulletin.

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY BULLETIN

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY - - AUGUSTA, MAINE

CHARLES O. BEALS, Commissioner

Walter J. Brennan

Safety Engineer

Edward K. Sawyer

Inspector

Minnie E. Hanley

Woman Factory Inspector

Vol. I

October 1931

No. 3

FALSE ECONOMIES

Recently a chain failed and a suspended load fell to the floor, crushing a foot, breaking a leg and damaging a machine beyond repair. The reason for all this destruction and pain was easily traceable to one of our most common ailments, lack of an efficient chain and cable inspection.

It requires no elaborate mathematics to show that a hundred chains or many thousand new links could be had for the costs, direct and indirect, of the above accident yet it is rare indeed to find a plant where a systematic, periodic and careful inspection is made of chains, cables and slings. Such equipment is purchased and usually forgotten, to be replaced when it is utterly unfit or when a costly failure pounds the lesson home.

What is the solution? Merely a proper appreciation of the importance of sound equipment coupled with a thorough and systematic program of intelligent inspection. The most difficult problem will be the selection of a man or men capable of judging the condition of gear. The authority of such a committee must necessarily be unlimited if inspection be something other than mere formality.

Age of gear indicates nothing and its actual condition is the only safe criterion. Precious loads are swung about your plant and workers place their trust in the equipment you supply; manufacturers must have a better appreciation of the hazard such gear imposes if they would be free from regrets.

RIGHT NOW is the time to attend to this matter, for tomorrow may be too late. Your safety director and Master Mechanic can collaborate with you in the formulation of a program and schedule; your insurance carrier and this Department can assist in the technicalities. Ten dollars worth of time has repeatedly paid ten thousand dollars worth of dividends and saved inestimable grief to all concerned. We hope the response will be worthy of those who control the destinies of Maine's industry.

STATE LIBRARY ANXIOUS TO COOPERATE

Among the thousands of volumes in the State Library located in the Capitol Building, are many dealing with the subject of accident prevention and it is the wish of Mr. Henry Dunnack, Librarian, that those interested in learning the latest and best on the subject avail themselves of the excellent facilities and service his Department offers.

Among the many books, pamphlets and reports dealing with the subject of safety are the following outstanding publications which are highly recommended to those who would like help in the solution of a problem or who would like to become more familiar with good safety practice.

1. Safety Code for Paper and Pulp Mills, 1926.
2. Safety Code for Use, Care and Protection of Abrasive Wheels, 1927.
3. Safety Code for Prevention of Dust Explosions, 1927.
4. Textile Safety Code, 1929.
5. National Safety Code for Protection of Heads and Eyes of Industrial Workers, 1920.
6. Williams: Manual of Industrial Safety, 1927.
7. Aetna Life Insurance Company: Safeguards for Prevention of Industrial Accidents, 1910.
8. Cowee, G. A.: Practical Safety Methods and Devices, Manufacturing and Engineering, 1916.
9. DeBlois: Industrial Safety Organizations for Executives and Engineers, 1926.

The best place to post the plant rule regarding the wearing of goggles while grinding is on the grinding wheels and two hooks holding a couple of pair of goggles can well be placed on such a sign.

Roll bandage was never intended to be used next to a wound. Very handy sterile dressings are on the market and come wrapped in cellophane. These or equally permissible substitutes, homemade or commercial, should be used to dress wounds.

SKIN PROTECTION

In every industry throughout the State some few employees could use to advantage any compound designed to protect their skin against acid and alkaline compounds, dye-stuffs, bark and paints. Either by irritation to the point of well-defined dermatitis or by absorption, many compounds seriously affect the worker and frequently penalize management to the extent of considerable lost time and medical bills.

There are available several compounds for the better protection of workers handling irritating or poisonous materials, one firm having produced an ointment for protection against acids as well as a companion ointment offering a high degree of protection against alkalis. There are also ointments of a waxy nature designed to fill the pores of the skin and resist the action of all but soap and water, making them invaluable for kerosene, gasoline and chemical handlers.

Dermatitis as industry knows it usually results from an irritation of the skin, either following exposure to chemicals or as a result of drastic scrubbing with abrasive soaps for the removal of imbedded grime. The microscopic breaks in the skin permit the entrance of bacteria and the area soon erupts with a multitude of tiny "boils" these increasing as the abraded, inflamed area increases because of the inoculation of the fresh wounds by the germ-laden discharges.

The Safety Engineering Service is anxious to obtain samples of these excellent products for you and to learn of your problems.

UNIQUE SAFETY COURT AT LAWRENCE CEMENT PLANT

One of the outstanding safety performances in Maine is that of the Lawrence Portland Cement Plant at Thomaston, this plant having overcome its great hazards and built into the minds of the workers a safety consciousness sufficient to carry them through the year thus far without a lost time accident. Under the guidance of Mr. O. E. Wishman, Safety Director, and as the result of concerted effort on the part of every man, beginning with the Manager, this plant's performance ranks high in an industry where fine safety performance is so frequent as to become ordinary.

Mr. Wishman is a firm believer that safeguarding of equipment is but a step toward success and is in reality but about 10% of the problem, the remainder reducing to a matter of safety consciousness in the worker. To stop at the guarding of machines and the posting of a few bulletins is a haphazard, superficial attempt at safety and those who would make outstanding progress must resort to other approaches, mainly psychological.

Legislation emanating from plant executives is kept at a minimum at Lawrence for fear that a resentment may be bred against the safety program. Rather than to give the employees the idea that the work is being forced upon them they are encouraged to work out their own safety salvation and a Worker's Committee functions with great success. Their familiarity with plant processes and conditions makes the recommendations of such a committee invaluable and from this committee came a "stunt" absolutely unique in Maine's safety experience.

A suggestion was made that a Safety Police Department and Court be established from the ranks of the employees for the formal handling of safety rule violations and the placing of blame, together with suitable penalties. This required tactful handling and some time was allowed for the idea to be talked over throughout the plant. Upon going to a vote of workers (executives, supervisors and other officials being excluded) the scheme was approved 100% and so went into effect.

On January 1st the Committee supervised the election of a Chief of Police by the workers, using ballots, and shortly thereafter each department had a "patrolman", all equipped with suitable badges of authority. The Chief serves a warrant on violators of safety rule or practice and the offender is haled before the Safety Court. The Court has the usual Judge, attorneys, crier and jury with the Plant Superintendent acting as Judge, Safety Engineer as Prosecuting Attorney and a comedian in the role of Crier to relieve the tenseness and add a touch of humor to the occasion.

When the case has been rested by both prosecution and defense the Judge charges the jury (Workmen's Safety Committee) and they retire to consider the case, returning to report when a majority have decided upon a verdict. Violations are classified into three degrees, the first a major violation of a serious nature, the second a minor offense and the third an unintentional violation. Penalties are not financial, rather being cleverly devised to impress the culprit and the rest with the case and to humiliate as well as punish.

Naturally back of such a unique system must stand a Manager who is "sold" on safety and considers it worth any effort. Only when men know of the attitude of the highest plant authority toward safety and its devices can such a "stunt" be effective, yet when it is given managerial backing no approach can rival it in impressing the personnel with the fact that carelessness will not be tolerated by management or fellow-workers alike.

Guards, posters, rule books and the finest working conditions can only contribute to accident prevention; bringing the minds of men to a state where a safety thought is injected before their every act can BRING accident free days, months and years.

USE THE CAMERA

The truth of the old proverb "One picture is worth ten thousand words" can readily be proved if those responsible for plant safety would attack their chronic problems with a camera. Speeches, letters from management and even pressure brought to bear by supervisory forces never equals the effectiveness of a photographic evidence in the combating of an aggravated condition or practice.

An enlarged picture of an unsafe practice will form the nucleus for a most excellent poster and the curiosity common to all of us will draw men to the displays when a poster of the commercial type would not earn a glance. Two pictures, showing the right and wrong way of lifting are your best approach to the back strain problem. The background of familiar scenes and an acquaintance with the characters as well as with the machine or material pictured serve to pound the lesson home more forcefully.

To fail to obtain a series of pictures when a neglected wound develops into blood poisoning is to turn our back on a most powerful influence for the prevention of further cases. Such pictures incorporated into posters bearing the inscription "Once it was just a scratch" will effectively answer the eternal arguments advanced by those who would be considered "hard-boiled."

Credit for outstanding safety performance must be given if crews are to maintain high degree of enthusiasm over long periods and there is no better manner in which to build a safety morale than to recognize meritorious performance with pictures, suitably inscribed. Such pictures of groups instill both foremen and crews with pride in their accomplishments and actually serve to set up goals for other departments to strive for.

Try a pictorial campaign on that unsafe practice that has been penalizing your records and keep the camera handy to assist in every phase of safety work.

MONTHLY MEETINGS AT C. M. P. CO.

A high degree of enthusiasm is maintained in the several Divisions of the Central Maine Power Co. by monthly safety meetings and those having to do with the arranging of these sessions deserve much credit for their success.

One man is designated annually in each Division to plan programs and by liberal use of moving pictures, speakers and demonstrations the safety subject is kept forever before them in a fascinating manner.

The wonderful facilities provided and the cooperative attitude of the management, coupled with capable safety leaders, explain C. M. P. Co.'s outstanding success in accident prevention.

LAWRENCE CEMENT HOSTS TO QUARRY SECTION

Mr. O. E. Wishman, Safety Director of the Lawrence Portland Cement Plant at Thomaston, is planning a mass meeting late in October and will invite representatives of the Quarry Section to be present.

Mr. Wishman is driving his charges hard for a year of 100%

safety in his plant and with the enthusiasm certain to result from such a meeting it seems likely Maine's only cement plant will enter Safety's Hall of Fame at the close of 1931.

DO YOU USE ACIDS OR CAUSTICS?

To receive a negative reply to the above question would be rare indeed among our industries for from the spray of a storage battery to the huge tanks of "cooking liquor" in the paper mills nearly every plant has some chemical in use.

To use acids or alkalis is to create an eye hazard and yet from the frequent reports of such eye injuries it can be assumed that proper protective measures are not being taken in the majority of cases. The destructive effect of most concentrated chemical solutions on the delicate structures of the eye calls for **immediate** action and in accordance with a certain technique if injury is to be held at a minimum. It is better of course, to prevent chemicals from coming in contact with eyes and body, but that will be discussed in detail in the November issue.

Our problem is mainly the combating of acids and alkalis, sulphuric, hydrochloric (muriatic) and strong acetic acids being a few of the common acids in use and ammonia, caustic soda, caustic potash, soda ash and lime being typical alkalis. Safety directors must remember that an acid counteracts the ill effects of the alkaline compounds and vice versa, the choice of reagent being naturally important. Because it is not safe to depend on the employee's memory it is well to provide solutions in distinctive colors or in especially labelled bottles. Haste in application of the counteracting solution is all-important.

At every point where acids or alkalis are used there should be a rack containing the proper counteracting solution. An abundant supply of 2% acetic acid can be tinted red by a chemist or pharmacist and labelled in heavy letters "USE FOR CAUSTIC ON BODY, CLOTHES OR IN EYES." A solution of sodium bicarbonate can as well be tinted blue and labelled "USE FOR ACID ON BODY, CLOTHES OR IN EYES". An educational campaign and a personal contact with users of chemicals is necessary to teach men the compounds falling in the two classifications. Usually both are not in use in the same area and one solution suffices as well as simplifies the problem.

REMEMBER—previous to the application of a counteracting solution a copious irrigation of an eye, particularly, is the best practice. To wash away and dilute the offending substance is better than to neutralize in the eye with the consequent harm resulting from chemical reaction. Pure water should be at hand, supplied through a flexible hose. A thorough irrigation, application of the proper counteracting reagent, a prompt trip to the first-aid room and then to a doctor should be the standardized

procedure in such cases. Training of employees handling acids and caustics is essential to eye safety in such occupations and their emergency treatment of cases can do more than any other agency for the reduction of ill-effects.

Whether it be the occasional splash of a caustic cleaning solution or the spray of acid from the breaking of flanges on acid lines the proper solutions must be at hand and those present must be thoroughly trained. An ounce of the proper solution costing a penny will save a priceless eye; why not make the investment?

SAFETY PERSONALS

Ibra L. Ripley, Division Line Foreman, Lewiston Division, has been selected to attend the National Safety Council sessions in Chicago, Oct. 12th-16th. Following the usual custom, the Central Maine Power Co. sends the foreman of the crew having the best safety record at the end of the seventh month of their annual safety contest. This is indeed a wonderful recognition of good performance and this Company deserves the highest commendation for their sense of safety values.

The Eastport and Lubec plants of the American Can Company are models of safety and have built outstanding records as the result of a happy functioning of management, supervisors and crews. The Lubec plant has topped the sixty plants of this company in safety performance and Eastport has been a close second.

Lawrence Portland Cement Plant has made 1931 a banner year with nine months freedom from lost time accidents. With a crew of over 200 men engaged in this sort of work the performance is worthy of national recognition.

Fraser Paper Company of Madawaska points to a 90% reduction of accidents since September, last year. The work of James Reith stands out as a striking example of what can be done when all forces combine to solve a problem.

Plans are being made for an organization of industrial nurses in Maine with hopes for a monthly News-Letter containing information of interest and value. Such a group would be a most powerful factor in the furtherance of our accident prevention work in view of the strategic position they occupy in the safety set-up.

A VERY EFFECTIVE IDEA

It is common to have a new employee explain an injury by pleading ignorance of existing hazards and infections in the new-comer frequently are due to his ignorance of the existence of a First Aid Room or the location thereof.

Such an explanation is more or less logical and it becomes the duty of those concerned with plant safety to forestall such instances. Safety requirements can best be introduced by the Employment Manager and the new employee sent to the Safety Director en route to his job for intimate instruction in plant safety requirements. The foreman completes the instruction on the job and continually thereafter supervises and reiterates the instructions and cautions.

Androscoggin Mills at Lewiston have a most excellent method of being sure new employees understand the plant requirements and their form is reproduced below. This can be changed to meet varying conditions.

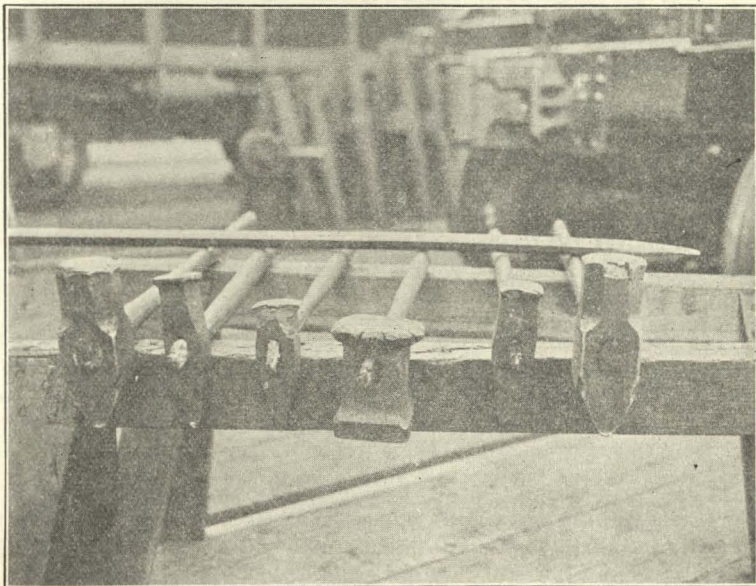
SAFETY EXAMINATION FOR NEW EMPLOYEES

1. Has "Safety First" been explained to you?.....
2. Do you know where the First Aid Room is located?.....
3. Do you know how to get there?.....
4. Do you know what to do if First Aid Room is not open?.....
5. Do you understand that every injury, no matter how small, must be reported to your Overseer or Second Hand AT ONCE?
6. Have you been told where to go, and whom to see if you have any trouble with your eyes?.....
7. Do you know that BLOOD POISON usually starts from a small scratch or cut that is not taken care of?.....
8. Do you know the difference between Mechanical and Non-Mechanical Accidents?
9. Has the Safety precautions applying to your work been explained to you?
10. Who explained above questions to you?.....

My answers to the above statements are true, and I agree to report all injuries I may receive and do everything possible to prevent accidents to myself or fellow-workmen.

.....	Employee
.....	Return to Safety Director at
Foreman	the close of your first day in
Date	this plant.

Periodic Tool Inspection Saves Eyes!



TOOLS WITH MUSHROOMED HEADS PRESENT A SERIOUS EYE HAZARD

The chips and burrs certain to fly from mushroomed and cracked tools such as shown above will eventually claim an eye from worker or bystander if their use is permitted.

Goggles should be worn while using such tools, and inspections made by those in authority to discover "burring" or "cracking" of tool heads. Unsafe tools should be condemned and withdrawn from use until such time as they can be dressed by a blacksmith.

Improper and unsafe handles also offer fine opportunities for injury and can be eliminated by the same inspection.

THE FOURTH MAINE INDUSTRIAL SAFETY CONFERENCE

The Department of Labor and Industry announces Maine's Fourth Annual Safety Conference and urges that the manufacturers of the State and their representatives be present at this annual one-day session of intensive safety discussion.

The program promises to be diversified, interesting and educational with a group of outstanding speakers giving freely of their experience. Much greater stress will be placed on the invaluable Round Table Discussion of all problems submitted, this opportunity of obtaining expert advice being invaluable to those present. An informal exhibit of safety devices and equipment will be a feature.

"Forewarned is forearmed" applies to accident prevention and at this time operating costs can ill afford to include financial penalties resulting from accidents. The attendance should reflect a sincere desire on the part of Maine's manufacturers to manufacture their products without a by-product of injured workers.

Senate Chamber--State House

NOV. 4TH

Augusta, Maine